REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated March 9, 2005 in which the Examiner rejected claims 14, 15, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph, objected to claim 15, rejected claims 7 and 15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting and stated that claims 1-6, 8-13, 16-21 and 24-26 are allowed.

New claims 27-32 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27-32 are in condition for allowance.

As indicated above, the specification has been amended to point out that the personal computer 501 disclosed in Figure 3 and discussed in paragraph [0052] and [0057]. Applicants respectfully submit that the external device is included in the specification and enabled in Figures 3 and 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the amendment to the specification and withdraws the rejection to claims 14, 15, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph.

As indicated above, claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 14.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner approves the correction and withdraws the objection to claim 15.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge the priority document filed January 10, 2001. Attached to this Amendment is a copy of the claim of priority as filed as well as a copy of the stamped postcard.

Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending application number 10/040380.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under the judicially created doctrine. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that claim 1 of the copending application has been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 7 and 15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: _ June 7, 2005

Ellen Marcie Emas Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620

Patent Attorney's Docket No. 032567-014 ©17

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Noriyuki JINBO et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: July 10, 2001))
For: IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM A	COPY

CLAIM FOR CONVENTION PRIORITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The benefit of the filing date of the following prior foreign application in the following foreign country is hereby requested, and the right of priority provided in 35 U.S.C. § 119 is hereby claimed:

Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-210124

Filed: July 11, 2000

In support of this claim, enclosed is a certified copy of said prior foreign application. Said prior foreign application was referred to in the oath or declaration. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is requested.

By:

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANG SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: July 10, 2001

Platon N. Mandros Registration No. 22,124

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620

日本国特許庁 JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

別紙添付の書類に記載されている事項は下記の出願書類に記載されている事項と同一であることを証明する。

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application as filed with this Office

出願年月日 Date of Application:

2000年 7月11日

出願番号 Application Number:

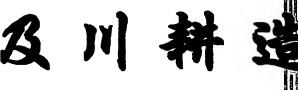
特願2000-210124

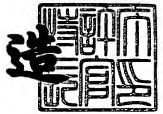
出 願 人 hpplicant(s):

ミノルタ株式会社

2001年 4月27日

特許庁長官 Commissioner, Japan Patent Office







mveritor: Noriyuki JINBO et al.		Appln. No. <u>N/A</u>		
Docket No.: 032567-017		Work Atty: PNM		Date: <u>July 10, 2001</u>
Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS SYSTEM AND IMAGE FORMING APPARTUS				
The following was/were received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon:				
☐ Utility Patent Application Transmittal	×	Executed Declaration/Power of Attorney	\boxtimes	Check for \$ 1,098.00 is enclosed
☐ Design Patent Application Transmittal		Unexecuted Declaration/Power of Attorney		Check for \$ is enclosed
☐ Continuing Prosecution Application Request	×	Assignment/Assignment Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1595)		Charge \$ to Deposit Account
☐ Provisional Application Cover Sheet	\boxtimes	Claim for Convention Priority w/ One (1)		
 Provisional Application Transmittal 	_	certified copy(s)		
☐ Continuation/Divisional Application (Rule		Preliminary Amendment		
1.53(b)) with copy of application		Information Discl. Statement Transmittal Letter		
☐ Request for Continued Examination		Information Disclosure Citation (PTO-1449)		£ =
INCLÚDING:		Information Disclosure Statement w/_		⁴ 22 =
Specification (pages 1 - 44)		document(s)		
☑ Claims (claim(s) 1 - <u>26</u> , <u>8</u> pgs.)		Petition for Month Extension of Time		-i 6 ≘ i
☑ Drawings (Fig(s). 1 - 21, 21 pgs.)☑ Abstract of the Disclosure		Constructive Petition for Extensions of Time		000
		Ribliographic Data Entry Form		ř 🚆

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